## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

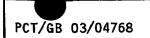
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12N15/10 B01L3/00 //C1201/68 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12N B01L G01N C12Q Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 2002/068357 A1 (MATHIES RICHARD A ET 1-27AL) 6 June 2002 (2002-06-06) 33-39 paragraphs '0113!,'0136! paragraph '0073! paragraph '0081! paragraphs '0010!-'0030! Y 28-30 Y US 5 545 529 A (COSTA MAX ET AL) 28-30 13 August 1996 (1996-08-13) column 8, line 39 -column 8, line 50 31,32 X US 5 304 487 A (WILDING PETER ET AL) 1-5,7, 10, 19 April 1994 (1994-04-19) 15-27. 33-39 column 9, line 5 -column 9, line 48; figures 1,5,6,8-10 -/--X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 16 February 2004 23/02/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016

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A	US 4 912 044 A (JACOB ELARD ET AL) 27 March 1990 (1990-03-27) column 3, line 8 -column 3, line 15	1-39
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